## PURSUING OUR MISSION

The Mask of Hypocrisy

Acts 5:1-11



Half of this misery in the world comes from trying to look, instead of trying to be, what one is not."

George MacDonald

### hy·poc·ri·sy /həˈpäkrəsē/

#### noun

- 1. from Greek: 'acting of a theatrical part', 'play a part, pretend'.
- 2. wearing a mask; playing the actor
- 3. the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense.

## Hypocrisy is characterized by two regrettable failures:

1. When we honor God with our lips, but not our hearts.

"Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draws near unto me with their mouth and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

Matthew 15:7-8



The sin of Ananias & Sapphira was ...

- Energized by Satan (v. 3).
- Motivated by pride.

Once we are more concerned with our reputation than our character, there is no end to the things we will do to make ourselves look good.

#### The sin of Ananias & Sapphira was ...

- Energized by Satan (v. 3).
- Motivated by pride.
- Directed against the church.

Take heed ... to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:28

Husbands, love your wives; even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.

Ephesians 5:25

"The church is the pillar and ground of the truth, and Satan attacks it with his lies. The church is God's temple in which He dwells and Satan wants to move in and dwell there too. The church is God's army and Satan seek to get into the ranks as many traitors as he can. The church is safe as long as Satan is attacking from the outside, but when he gets on the inside, the church is in danger."

Warren Wiersbe

"Now I've given to Jesus, everything.
Now I gladly own Him as my King."

At Calvary

1. This week, will you write out Matthew 15:7-8 on a card and evaluate your life in light of this truth?

"Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draws near unto me with their mouth and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."



# Hypocrisy is characterized by two regrettable failures:

- 1. When we honor God with our lips, but not our hearts.
- 2. When we acknowledge God's love, but not His wrath.



"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

Romans 1:18

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

John 3:36

"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29

# THE LAW OF THE DESIGNER

"Being filled with all...unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:"

Romans 1:29-31

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If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:6-7

"Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28-29